

HOW PROTESTS FLIGHT BY U.S.

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by Georgi M. Pushkin, Soviet Foreign Minister, at Moscow.

The Soviet note asserted that the plane had entered Soviet territory about 650 kilometers (400 miles) east of the town of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, on the southeast coast of Sakhalin. It said the high-reconnaissance plane had flown over Soviet territory and territorial waters for nine minutes.

The note said the island of Sakhalin is a narrow island on the coast of Siberia. It is 140 miles long. The southern part of the island was held by Japan from 1905 until the end of World War II.

Flight in Darkness

The note stated that the U-2 Soviet aircraft was shot down at Moscow time 11:20 a.m. The plane was flying over Sakhalin at 11:20 a.m. local time, during the night of darkness.

The reconnaissance plane was equipped with instruments that enable them to make observations during darkness. However, the U-2 piloted by Mr. Powers, an American, was equipped with instruments that required day-light for effective results. The powers took off from a base in Pakistan, according to the Soviet Union, at a distance of about 1,000 miles in four hours and was down by a rocket at a height of 65,000 feet in the area of Sverdlovsk.

The powers flight was cited by Khrushchev as the reason for his withdrawal later from the Big Four summit in Paris and for the postponement of the visit by Premier Khrushchev to the Soviet Union scheduled for the month.

The powers was released by the Soviet Government last year after having served a two-year sentence for espionage. He was changed for a Russian, Adolf I. Abel, who was sentenced to a thirty-year sentence by the United States for espionage.

United States Renewed

The note repeated the United States made after the Powers flight that the Soviet Union would retaliate and launch attacks on the Soviet bases on the territory of the Soviet Union.

Texts of Soviet and U. S. Notes on U-2

MOSCOW, Sept. 4 (AP).—Following is the text of the Soviet note to the United States, as transmitted by the Soviet press agency, Tass, charging that a U-2 reconnaissance plane had violated Soviet borders:

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics deems it necessary to state the following to the Government of the United States of America:

According to verified information, an American U-2 reconnaissance plane, at 7:21 P. M. Moscow time on Aug. 30 this year, intruded into the air space of the Soviet Union in the Far East, sixty-five kilometers east of the town of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and overflew Soviet territory and territorial waters for nine minutes.

This gross violation of the state frontier of the Soviet Union by an American reconnaissance plane was obviously provocative in nature.

The serious international complications produced by (Francis Gary) Powers' espionage flight of a U-2 plane in May 1960, and the worldwide indignation aroused by the perfidy of the former United States Administration, which was then exposed for all the world to see, is common knowledge. These aggressive actions of the Eisenhower Administration wrecked the summit meeting, sharply aggravated the entire international situation, intensified the concern of the peoples of all countries for the destinies of the world, and became a heavy burden on the relations between the U. S. S. R. and the United States.

Kennedy Statement Cited

This is why the Soviet Government received with satisfaction the statement by President Kennedy in January last year that he issued an order not to resume U-2 flights and to prevent violations of the frontiers of the Soviet Union by American planes.

In connection with the new case of gross violation by an American "U-2" plane of the Soviet air space, the legitimate question arises: What is this — revival of the old practice of the previous Government, condemned by President Kennedy himself, or a provocative action of the bellicose United States Government, which would like to create a new international conflict, like the conflict of 1960, and heat the atmosphere to the maximum once again?



The New York Times, Sept. 8, 1961

A NEW AIR INCIDENT: The Soviet Union charged that a U-2 plane had flown over Sakhalin in area of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (cross).

where to the maximum once again?

The United States Government must give a clear answer to this question.

News is being received of late about the activation of American reconnaissance "U-2" planes near the frontiers of the Soviet Union. "U-2" aircraft are also reported on the airbases of Britain; reconnaissance aircraft of the same type, "U-2," are stationed at American bases in Japan, Turkey, Federal German Republic (West Germany) and undertake flights from these bases.

Approximately the same versions concerning the purposes of these flights as the ones advanced by Eisenhower's Government, until it was caught red-handed on the spot of the crime, are being circulated again.

The United States Government must realize in what a position it places its allies. The Soviet Government had warned most seriously in its time about the extremely grave consequences confronting the countries whose Governments grant their territory to American warplanes for the preparation and launching of invasions into the confines of the U. S. S. R. It has also warned that such provocations are repeated, the Soviet Government would be compelled to take appropriate retaliatory measures, including the rendering harmless of war bases used against the Soviet Union. It is superfluous to mention that

these warnings remain fully in force.

The Soviet Government lodges a resolute protest with the United States Government in connection with the new gross violation by an American reconnaissance plane of the Soviet Union's state frontier. It expects the United States Government to punish strictly the persons guilty of organizing this flight of the American "U-2" plane and to take immediate measures to prevent future violations of the Soviet air space.

If the United States Government does not do this, the Soviet Government will take measures which it deems necessary to insure the security of its frontiers in case of new violations. At the same time, the Soviet Government reserves the right to raise the question of United States aggressive actions at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Text of U. S. Note

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (UPI).—Following is the text of the United States note to the Soviet Union on the plane incident, as made public here today:

The charge contained in the Soviet note of Sept. 4 that a U. S. aircraft violated Soviet airspace and flew over Soviet territory and territorial waters was investigated immediately upon receipt of the Soviet note.

Investigation revealed that an unintentional violation may in fact have taken place. A patrol craft operated by the U. S. Air Force was in the northern Pacific area east of Sakhalin at about the time specified in the Soviet note.

The pilot of the aircraft has reported that he was flying a directed course well outside Soviet territorial limits but encountered severe winds during this nighttime flight and may therefore have overflown the southern tip of Sakhalin.

My Government has instructed me to state that the policy of the U. S. Government with reference to overflights of Soviet territory has in no way been altered and remains as stated by the President on Jan. 25, 1961.

If the pilot of the aircraft questioned did in fact violate Soviet territory, this act was entirely unintentional and due solely to a navigational error under extremely difficult flying conditions.

Precautions intended to prevent such incidents are under review.

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ferred to Mr. Kennedy's death at his first news conference, President Jan. 25 when he said that he "doubted such flights 'not to be made'."

In addition, the United States said that "press reports were reviewed to certain that such flights would be avoided."

The note was delivered to the Soviet protest received this morning. Stressing the latest incident was "best," the United States said. "The pilot of the aircraft was flying in a well-disputed course well out of Soviet territorial limits. Counters severe winds that the nighttime flight and, therefore, have unintentionally overflown the southern Sakhalin."

The Soviet note said the plane was over Soviet territory for nine minutes. This speculation as to whether Russians fired on it. The States note made no reference to the amount of time the plane may have been over Sakhalin. It was believed that it was fired.

First News of Plane, Is in its note, the United States said. "The aircraft was flying in a well-disputed course well out of Soviet territorial limits. Counters severe winds that the nighttime flight and, therefore, have unintentionally overflown the southern Sakhalin."

The reply by the States was notable for its substance. It called the "patrol plane" and limited to an explanation of possible territorial violation might have occurred lately.

State Department characterized the United States reply as an "explanation" and an "apology." This reference to a statement made by President Kennedy in January 1961, when he said that he "doubted such flights 'not to be made'."

Mr. Kennedy afterwards said that he had not used the word "apology," but that he had said the United States had expressed its "regret." The text of the United States note was issued with speed.

Word of the Soviet note was received here after 9:30 this morning. Mr. Kennedy was in Newport, preparing to return to the White House. He and Mrs. Kennedy were immediately notified.